NUMB. CXXXIX.

The GUARDIAN.

——prisca fides facto, sed fama perennis. Virg.

Thursday, August 20. 1713.

Most Venerable NESTOR,

'I Find that every body is very much delighted 'with the Voice of your Lion. His Roarings 'against the Tucker have been most melodi- 'ous and emphatical. It is to be hoped, that the 'Ladies will take warning by them, and not pro- 'voke him to greater Outrages; for I observe, that 'your Lion, as you your self have told us, is made up 'of Mouth and Paws. For my own part, I have 'long considered with my self how I might expres 'my Gratitude to this noble Animal that has so 'much the good of our Country at his Heart. 'After many Thoughts on this Subject, I have at 'length resolved to do Honour to him, by compi- 'ling a History of his Species, and extracting out of 'all Authors whatever may redound to their Repu- 'tation. In the Prosecution of this Design I shall 'have no manner of regard to what *Æsop* has said 'upon the Subject, whom I look upon to have been 'a Republican by the unworthy Treatment which 'he often gives to this King of Beasts, and whom, if 'I had time, I could convict of Falshood and For- 'gery, in almost every Matter of Fact which he has 'related of this generous Animal. Your Romance 'Writers are likewise a Set of Men whose Autho- 'rity I shall build upon very little in this case. 'They all of them are born with a particular Anti- 'pathy to Lions, and give them no more Quarter 'than they do Giants, where-ever they chance to 'meet them. There is not one of the seven Cham- 'pions, but when he has nothing else to do, en- 'counters with a Lion, and you may be sure al- 'ways gets the better of him. In short, a Knight- 'Errant lives in a perpetual State of Enmity with 'this noble Creature, and hates him more than all 'things upon the Earth, except a Dragon. 'Had the Stories recorded of them by these Writers 'been true, the whole Species would have been 'destroyed before now. After having thus re- 'nounced all fabulous Authorities, I shall begin 'my Memoirs of the Lion with a Story related of 'him by *Aulus Gellius*, and extracted by him out of '*Dion Cassius*, an Historian of undoubted Veracity. 'It is the famous Story of *Androcles* the *Roman* 'Slave, which I premise for the sake of my learned 'Reader, who needs go no further than it if he has 'read it already.

'*Androcles* was the Slave of a noble *Roman* who 'was Proconsul of *Africk*. He had been guilty of 'a Fault, for which his Master would have put him 'to Death, had not he found an Opportunity to 'escape out of his Hands, and fled into the Deserts 'of *Numidia*. As he was wandering among the 'barren Sands, and almost dead with Heat and Hun- 'ger, he saw a Cave in the side of a Rock. He 'went into it, and finding at the further end of it 'a Place to sit down upon, rested there for some 'time. At length to his great Surprize a huge o- 'vergrown Lion entered at the Mouth of the Cave, 'and seeing a Man at the upper end of it, imme- 'diately made towards him. *Androcles* gave him- 'self for gone; but the Lion, instead of treating 'him

(Price Two Pence.)